

flexible schooling for children who are drop-outs, older children or children in difficult circumstances, and special provisions to promote education of girls, children from disadvantaged sections of society or children with special needs.

**Distribution of answer-sheet copies**

2004. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to instruct all higher education bodies to provide photocopies of answer-sheets to the graduate students in the country, by charging them a nominal charge;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it will be started by fulfilling the long standing demand of students and their parents; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), there is no such proposal under its consideration.

**Omission of yoga from competition**

†2005. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether yoga has been omitted from Inter Universities National Sports Competition;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it would be a shock for yoga lovers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to the information furnished by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), the discipline of yoga (M&W) was deleted from the schedule of Inter University Tournaments 2006-07, on the recommendations of Inter University Sports Board of India since yoga is considered to be

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

meditative science for promoting holistic human health including-physical, mental and spiritual aspects.

**Free textbooks to students**

‡2006. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether textbooks are distributed to all the children of I to VIII standard, free of cost under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) whether textbooks are also distributed free of cost to the children belonging to general category for class VI to VIII under 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan'; and

(c) if not, by when Government will avoid such discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The guidelines on free textbooks provided under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are targeted to promote elementary education amongst the most disadvantaged sections of society, and are as follows:

- (i) To all girls/Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe children at primary and upper Primary level within an upper ceiling of Rs.150/- per child;
- (ii) State Governments to continue to fund free textbooks being provided from the State budgets;
- (iii) In case any State Government is partially subsidizing the cost of textbooks being supplied to children in elementary classes, then assistance under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan would be restricted to that portion of the cost of the books which is being borne by children.

**Examination on demand system**

2007. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to take off the examination pressure on school children, Government propose to introduce 'exams on demand' system where children can take exam as per their convenience; and

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‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.